

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAI-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCCT-01

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R 181224Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000V

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 216

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONVENTION OPENS DEBATE ON FIRST MOTION

REF: BELFAST 203

1. NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OPENED DEBATE ON FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MOTION JUNE 17. QUOTE THAT THIS CONVENTION COMMITS ITSELF TO DEVISING A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH WILL HAVE THE MOST WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, DECLARES ITS ABHORRENCE OF VIOLENCE FROM ALL SOURCES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO OPEN POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE CONVENTION. UNQUOTE. RESOLUTION DRAFTED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) REQUIRED LITTLE AMENDMENT BEFORE BEING TABLED BY 76 OF THE 78 CONVENTION MEMBERS.

2. HARRY WEST LEADER OF OFFICIAL UNIONISTS, ONE OF THREE
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PARTIES IN UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC), LED

OFF DEBATE WHICH EXPECTED CONTINUE THROUGH LAST SESSION OF WEEK JUNE 19. OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDED SDLP CHIEF GERRY FITT, ALLIANCE LEADER OLIVER NAPIER AND DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST IAN PAISLEY. IN REMARKABLE AGREEMENT THEMES OF SPEECH CONCENTRATED ON UNDESIRABILITY CONTINUED RULE FROM WESTMINSTER, NECESSITY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT FOR ULSTER AND DISTINCTIVE ULSTER IDENTITY.

3. WEST REJECTED TOTAL INTEGRATION IN UNITED KINGDOM AND INDEPENDENT ULSTER OUTSIDE U.K. AS ALTERNATIVES. HE ALSO NOTED RESULTS BORDER POLL PRECLUDED A UNITED IRELAND. FITT PAID TRIBUTE TO PAISLEY AND REVEREND SMYTH (ORANGE ORDER) FOR THEIR RECENT CONDEMNATIONS OF LOYALIST VIOLENCE AS IN SPIRIT OF MOTION AND MOVED FARTHER FROM IRISH DIMENSION IN EMPHASIZING THAT PROBLEMS OF AREA HAD TO BE SOLVED BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN HOUSE. NAPIER SAW NORTHERN IRELAND ON THRESHOLD NEW BEGINNING OF UNDERSTANDING, THAT ALL IN PROVINCE WERE ULSTERMEN WITH COMMON INTERESTS, LOYALTY AND BIRTH PLACE. PAISLEY DESCRIBED LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF ULSTER ON PART BRITISH AND LACK INTEREST IN OR RESPECT FOR PROVINCE AMONG MEMBERS PARLIAMENT. HE SAID EITHER CONVENTION WOULD DO JOB OR OTHERS WOULD JOB FOR THEM. HE CONDEMNED AGAIN THOSE WHO COMMITTED VIOLENCE IN NAME PROTESTANTISM.

4. IRISH NEWS CARRIED HEADLINE JUNE 18, QUOTE UNITY IN DRIVE FOR WORKABLE FORMULA UNQUOTE. NEWS LETTER HEADLINE WAS QUOTE DAY FOR UNITY AT STORMONT UNQUOTE AND IRISH TIMES HEADLINE READ QUOTE DEBATE START RAISES HOPE IN CONVENTION UNQUOTE. SPICER

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